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CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR.

8 November 1948

SUBJECT Military Information: Strength of Nationalist and Communist Forces in Hauchou Area

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- nave surricient forces in the Hauchou (117-16, 34-18) area to destroy the Nationalist garrison there and that they have five additional columns for employment in the same sector. The Nationalist Hauchou garrison, which contains about one division of reliable regular troops and some miscellaneous units of doubtful value, is thus facing a vastly superior force. Its morale is very bad and it cannot put up effective resistance. The Communists have the clear-cut capability of bringing Nanking under attack within ten days from the beginning of an offensive.
- 2. The Nationalists have no firm plan for the present emergency except a vague scheme to establish a Yangtze River defense line. However, their available forces are insufficient to garrison this line. They have virtually no regular troops south of the river, and disengagement and redeployment in the Hsuchou area is tactically impossible. Such action is almost equally difficult for any significant part of the Nationalist North China armies.
- 3. If the Communists press their present advantage, they have the capability within a three week period of eliminating the Nationalist armies as an effective fighting force.

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